

## Historic downtown building makes unusual home for news station



Back Row, from left: Wayne May, Brad Sherwood, Patrick Claybon, Matt Posgai, Tim Elliott. Middle Row, from left: Deborah Tuff, Erica Proffer, Heidi Reamer, Alex Zequeira, Katie McManus-Faye. Front Row, from left: Angie Casey, Reginald Jones.

**THERE IS A BUILDING** located at 285 North Foster Street in the historic district that once housed guests to the Dothan area. It had a beautiful ballroom alive with music and formally-clad men and women in the early 1900s.

The Houston Hotel building was leased in the mid 1970's by Troy State University, Dothan (now Troy University, Dothan). Through the academic year '75-'76, some occupants were still living in one part of the hotel while classes were held in another. Troy University purchased the building in 1977 and it became known as Houston Hall. Classes were held in this building until June of 1990, when the new Troy Dothan campus opened on U.S. Highway 231 North.



In 1993 the original hotel ballroom was converted into a news set, the building was renamed the Charles Woods Building and it became home to WTVY-TV, the local CBS affiliate for the Dothan area. General Manager, Pat Dalby considers this historic property "...the center of the universe in this area. I like this building. It's visually impressive and adds value to the neighborhood. This is not what you expect a television station to look like and I like that."

You also wouldn't expect rookie reporters in a small

market like Dothan to get offers in mid-markets like Dallas, Miami and Tampa. But according to news director Katie Faye, "Reporters who come to WTVY receive excellent training and polishing and eventually make the move to bigger markets." In 2005 and 2006 her news team swept the AP awards and received an ABBY for local programming from the Alabama Broadcaster's Association.

"Of the people watching television news our market share is 85%," says Katie, "and that is unheard of." Katie says her news team focuses on community-based journalism, "...and that is harder than formula news in bigger markets."

The WTVY team consists of five producers, nine reporters and nine anchors, including veteran anchors Angie Casey and Reginald Jones. It is the only local station with three certified meteorologists. "The stability of our news team comes from our anchors and

executive producers who have invested ten to fifteen years at WTVY. The biggest challenge we face is getting the news of the day on the air. We can't talk to you next Tuesday to get today's top stories on the air. Time is always the enemy because the newscast starts at five, ready or not."

## Peanuts Around Town still going strong



**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE** for your business to display one of Dothan's famous "Peanuts Around Town." For more information on how you can join this unique, ongoing Dothan project, call Cathy at (334) 793-3097.



## A 'scenic' drive through downtown Dothan

**I WAS DRIVING** around downtown the other day looking at buildings in the historic district and there it was: the old Federal Land Bank building on the corner of North Oates and Burdeshaw. I pass this building every day as I head from the post office to my office on North St. Andrews. The building was built in the early 1950s and has had many tenants through the years. I pulled into the parking lot, which often overflows with cars whose drivers are renewing a license at the Houston County Administrative building.

I stop by Scenic Productions quite often because I have several old friends there. Mit Kirkland and Terry Duffie own the production company and are long-time supporters of the downtown area. On any given day Scenic is filled with clients. Known for their award-winning TV commercials, video, film, sales and industrial videos and promotional



Mitt Kirkland and Terry Duffie own Scenic Productions, located at the corner of North Oates and Burdeshaw Streets.

campaigns, it's hard to imagine how the owners of Scenic dedicate so much of their time to supporting community projects, but Mit and Terry believe in giving back to a city that has been good to them.

In 2005 they completed a hundred-thousand dollar-plus façade improvement on 416 North Oates Street. That year The Downtown Group presented them with

the prestigious Rehabilitation Award at our Annual Meeting. I asked Terry, "Why downtown?" and his reply, "We love downtown and we have a strong spirit to see downtown flourish. We feel that through a team effort and motivation of owners and investors the downtown area can be transformed into a multi-faceted area." Mit then pointed out that the Scenic downtown location "...is centrally located and clients have no trouble finding us. When we're covering county and city government meetings we just walk over." I love my downtown. It is filled with talented, caring people who engage themselves in the community.

For more information on Scenic Productions call 793-2722.

## Come relax at Art After Hours

**WHERE ELSE IN DOTHAN** can you dine on delectable hors d'oeuvres, view fine art, sip on wine and listen to live music in a fashionable environment? Only at the Wiregrass Museum of Art's Art After Hours.

On the third Thursday of each month, April through September, the museum cranks up the fun during Art After Hours, giving adults the opportunity to relax and enjoy the historic setting and contemporary art that the Wiregrass Museum of Art provides on a daily basis.

If you have yet to experience Art After Hours,

September is the month to indulge. Thursday, September 20, The Jazz Dogs will fill the museum galleries with live jazz, a whirl of specialty drinks and New Orleans style hors d'oeuvres will overflow, and guests can turn on their creative juices with our kitschy adult art project.



This event has proven to be the preferred after-work venue for the professional crowd in the Wiregrass region and this is the last opportunity for you to attend in 2007. For more information, visit [www.wiregrassmuseum.org](http://www.wiregrassmuseum.org).



The final Art After Hours of 2007 will take place at the Wiregrass Museum of Art on Thursday, September 20 from 5pm to 7:30pm. Admission is \$5 per person (Wiregrass Museum of Art members get in for free).

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For more information about membership and sponsorship options for The Downtown Group, call (334) 793-3097 or send your inquiry to:

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